

Docket 1999DE304
Serial No. 09/914,478
Group 1621

REMARKS

The abstract stands objected to. Applicants have amended the Abstract and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 10 and 12 and respectfully request that the objection to these claims be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1 to 10 and claim 12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103, as being obvious from Balkovec. Applicants traverse. Attached is a copy of the Declaration under 37 CFR §1.132 from Dr. Stefan Scherer, which was originally filed on January 30, 2003, but was not acknowledged in the instant action. Based on this declaration applicants respectfully request that the objections to the claims be removed and the claims allowed.

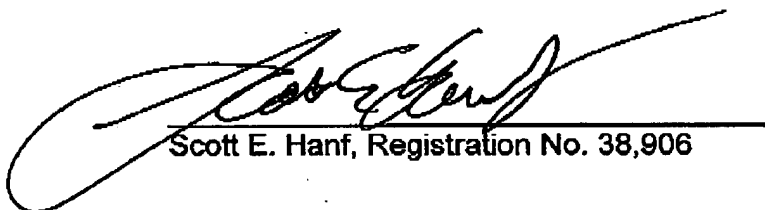
As the total number of claims does not exceed the number of claims originally paid for, no fee is believed due. However if an additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 03-2060.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

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Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott E. Hanf, Registration No. 38,906

(CUSTOMER NUMBER 25,255)

Attachment: Copy of the Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 (9 pages)

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